

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of a pipeline-transportable crude oil from a bitumen feed, the process comprising:
 - (1) dividing the bitumen feed into two fractions, the first fraction comprising between 20 and 80 wt% of the feed, the second fraction comprising between 80 and 20 wt% of the total feed, the two fractions together forming 100 wt % of the feed;
 - (2) distilling of the first fraction obtained in step (1) into a light fraction boiling below 380 °C and a residual fraction;
 - (3) thermal cracking of at least part of the residual fraction obtained in the distillation process described in step (2);
 - (4) distilling of the product obtained in step (3) into one or more light fraction(s) boiling below 350 °C, optionally one or more intermediate fractions boiling between 350 and 510 °C and a heavy fraction boiling above at least 350 °C;
 - (5) combining the second fraction obtained in step (1), the light fraction obtained in step (2) and the light fraction(s) obtained in step (4) to obtain a pipeline-transportable crude oil; and,
 - (6) using the heavy fraction obtained in step (4) for the generation of power and/or heat.
2. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, in which the bitumen feed in step (1) is divided into two fractions, the first fraction comprising between 40 and 60 wt% of the feed and the second fraction comprising between 60 and 40 wt% of the total feed.
3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 2, in which the thermally cracked product is split by distillation into a light fraction [[(I) boiling below 350 °C [(I)]]], an intermediate fraction boiling between 350 and 510 °C and a heavy fraction boiling above 510 °C.
4. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, in which at least part of the intermediate fraction is also added to the pipeline-transportable crude oil of step (5).

5. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 4, in which the intermediate fraction is thermally cracked, followed by distillation ~~into~~ into a light product and a heavy product, the light product being added to the pipeline-transportable crude oil mentioned in step (5), and the heavy product fraction being used in the generation of power and/or heat as described in step (6).
6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 [5], in which the thermal cracking in step (3) is carried out at a temperature between 440 and 510 °C and a pressure between 5 and 50 bara.
7. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 [5], in which the thermal cracking in step (3) is carried out in a soaker vessel.
8. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 7, in which the thermal cracking is carried out at a temperature between 420 and 500 °C and a pressure between 2 and 20 bara.
9. (New) The process according to claim 1 in which the first fraction obtained in step (1) is distilled unto a light fraction boiling below 450 °C and a residual fraction.
10. (New) The process according to claim 2 in which the first fraction obtained in step (1) is distilled unto a light fraction boiling below 510 °C and a residual fraction.
11. (New) The process according to claim 3 in which all of the intermediate fraction is added to the pipeline-transportable crude oil of step (5).